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Remarks

I. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements.

A second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. The IDS includes a modified form 1449. No copies of U.S. Patents are provided; however, copies of literature references accompany this paper. A first Information Disclosure Statement was submitted on 24 July 2003. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was submitted 6 November 2003. Applicants request that the Examiner indicate that the references have been considered by initialing each cited reference on each of the modified form 1449s and returning copies of the initialed forms to the applicants.

Applicants note that three patents have been issued by the USPTO from applications to which the present application claims priority, i.e., U.S. Patent Nos. 6,180,416, 6,326,160, and 6,653,091. These three patents have all been recited in the Information Disclosure Statements.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112 and define an invention that is patentable over the art. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is believed in order and is respectfully requested.

Please direct all further communications in this application to:

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If the Examiner notes any further matters that the Examiner believes may be expedited by a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (650) 599-3526.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 22 June 2004

Gary R. Fabian, Ph.D

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Agent for Applicants